Indian Language Channels

*488.MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of channels launched by Doordarshan in Indian languages with names of languages and dates of launching;

(b) the criteria of launching a channel in an Indian language;

(c) the reasons for npt launching Urdu channel, so far;

(d) whether Urdu channel is proposed to be launched by Doordarshan;

(e) if so, by when; and

(0 if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Regional channels are launched by Doordarshan in region specific languages with a view to meeting the aspirations and requirements of those regions. These mainly cater to the major language of the region. The details of the Channels of Doordarshan and their languages are as follows:

Channel	Language	Date of launch
DD-4	Malayalam	15.8.94
DD-5	Tamil	18.10.93
DD-6	Oriya	15.8.94
DD-7	Bengali	15.8.94
DD-8	Telugu	15.8.94
DD-9	Kannada	15.8.94
DD-10	Marathi	15.8.94
DD-I I	Gujarati	15.8.94
DD-12	Kashmiri	15.8.94
DD-13	North East	15.8.94
DD-I 8	Punjabi	06.8.98

(d) Doordarshan has no plans to launch an Urdu Channel. Almost all the Doordarshan Kendras produce and telecast programmes in Urdu language, apart from telecasting Urdu News bulletins.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.